



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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News Release

ICE AGENTS NAB SUR-13 GANG MEMBER

Admitted gang member now facing re-entry after deportation charges and deportation

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents, along with the Memphis/Shelby County Metro Gang Unit here, arrested another SUR-13 gang member this week as part of its ongoing national initiative called Operation Community Shield, designed to combat the violence in communities associated with street gangs.

ICE special agents Monday arrested Fidencio Galindo-Romero, 24, a citizen of Mexico, in Memphis. Galindo is a SUR-13 gang member. Galindo has a criminal history that includes a conviction for felony theft. After completing a criminal background check, ICE agents confirmed that Galindo-Romero was an illegal alien and also had been deported to Mexico in April 1998 and again in August 1998. Re-entering the U.S. after being formally deported is a felony.

“We will continue to use our immigration laws as a tool to remove these gang members from the United States,” said Michael A. Holt, ICE’s special agent-in-charge in New Orleans. “We will not let known gang members from other countries come to the U.S. to avoid prosecution in their native countries.”

Galindo-Romero admitted to officers that he had affiliations to the SUR-13 gang, and was in the country illegally. He faces criminal charges for re-entry after deportation. If convicted, Galindo-Romero faces up to 20 years in prison.

This week’s arrest is part of Operation Community Shield, an ICE initiative launched in January to target and dismantle violent street gangs across the country. ICE’s combined authorities for enforcing immigration and customs laws are powerful tools in fighting the growth of these criminal organizations. ICE has gathered thousands of names of known and suspected gang members from state and local law enforcement, and is comparing those names against immigration databases to determine immigration status and deportability. ICE can also investigate the money laundering, narcotics smuggling, financial crimes and other cross-border crimes typically committed by street gangs.

To date, Operation Community Shield has led to the arrest of more than 1,000 different gang members nationwide. Operation Community Shield is designed to disrupt, dismantle and prosecute violent gang organizations by employing the full range of enforcement authorities and investigative tools available to ICE.

Working with ICE Detention and Removal Operations, the ICE Office of Investigations uses deportation as an important law enforcement tool to target gang members. Gang members who return to the U.S. after deportation face stiff jail sentences if they're encountered by any law enforcement agency. Re-entering the U.S. after formal deportation is a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

#ICE#

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities